

REMARKS

Claims 15, 18, 19-22 and 25-28 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 15 is amended and claims 25-28 are added. No new matter is added by this amendment. Claims 1-14 and 16-17 are canceled and canceled claim 24 is correctly canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Worku at the interview held December 18, 2007 are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the references from the October 26, 2007 Information Disclosure Statement and return an initialed form PTO-1449 in the next Office Action.

Canceled claim 24 is objected to for informalities and has been correctly canceled based on the Examiner's helpful comments. Applicants respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,539,129 to Yushiya in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,483,359 to Yumiba et al. (hereinafter "Yumiba"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Yushiya and Yumiba, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest an image sensor comprising a predetermined number N of signal output lines for connecting the image sensor to a multiplexer; one signal output line connecting the image sensor to the multiplexer directly, and the other signal output lines connecting the image sensor to the multiplexer through a sample-and-hold circuit, as called for in claim 15.

The Office Action, on pages 17-19, fails to address these features of claim 15. As discussed with Examiner Worku, Yushiya discloses the use of sample-and-hold circuits 40-1, 40-2... 40-15 in Fig. 18. However, Yushiya's sample-and-hold circuits are connected to output terminals Vout 1 to Vout 15 and the respective switches 41-1 to 41-15. Therefore, Yushiya fails to disclose signal output lines connecting the image sensor to the multiplexer through a sample-and-hold circuit, as called for in claim 15.

Yushiya and Yumiba, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest an image sensor comprising a resolution switching unit that selects one of a high resolution mode in which all the image signals from the photoelectric conversion elements that belong to each of the groups are supplied sequentially to the analog-to-digital converter and a low resolution mode in which the image signals are thinned out and then supplied to the analog-to-digital converter, as called for in claim 18.


The Office Action, on pages 25 and 26, states that Yushiya discloses the plurality of line image sensors 2-1 to 2-15, which are supplied sequentially to the A/D conversion circuit 43-2, and as well, the image signals are thinned out and supplied to A/D conversion circuit 43-2. As discussed with Examiner Worku, Yushiya fails to specifically disclose how the image signals are being delivered to the A/D conversion circuit 43-2. Additionally, Yushiya fails to suggest or disclose a resolution switching unit that can select a high or low resolution mode, as called for in claim 18.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:RHR/khm

Date: December 19, 2007

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